Claim Amendments I.

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A method of inhibiting the 1. (Previously Amended) atherosclerotic process, comprising administering to a mammal an effective amount of a 7α-methyl-17α-ethynyl-estrane derivative having the general formula 1

Formula I

934 4305

wherein

 $R_1 = H(OR_3)$ or O;

 $R_2 = H \text{ or } (C_{1^{-18}})Acyl;$

 $R_3 = H \text{ or } (C_{1-18})Acyl;$

and the dotted line represents a double bond in the 4, 5- or the 5, 10position.

The method according to claim 1, wherein R_1 = 2. (Original) H, OH or O.

Page 3 of 7

- 3. (Original) The method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein $R_2 = H$ and the dotted line represents a double bond in the 5, 10-position.
- 4. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the a 7α -methyl- 17α -ethynyl-estrane derivative is 7α -methyl- 17α -ethynyl- 17β -hydroxy-estra-5(10)-en-3-one.

Claim 5 (Cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer)

6. (Original) The method of Claim 5 wherein the mammal is a human.